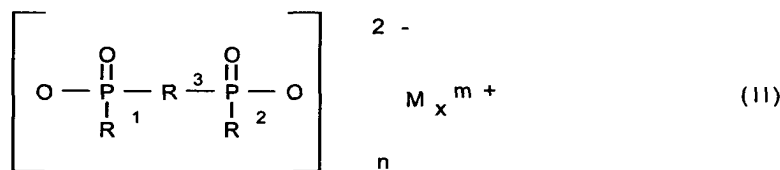
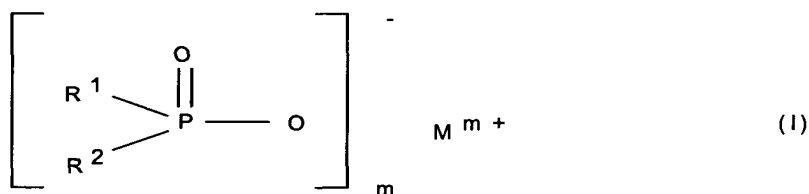


Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A surface-modified phosphinic salt ~~of the selected from~~ the group consisting formula (I) ~~and/or~~ a surface-modified diphosphinic salt of the formula (II), mixtures of formula (I) and formula (II) and/or polymers of ~~these~~ formula (I), polymers of formula (II) and mixtures of polymers of formula (I) and (II),



where

R¹ and R² are identical or different and are C₁-C₆-alkyl, linear or branched, and/or aryl;

R³ is C₁-C₁₀-alkylene, linear or branched, C₆-C₁₀-arylene, -alkylarylene, or -arylalkylene;

M is Mg, Ca, Al, Sb, Sn, Ge, Ti, Zn, Fe, Zr, Ce, Bi, Sr, Mn, Li, Na, K, and/or a protonated nitrogen base;

m is from 1 to 4;

n is from 1 to 4;

x is from 1 to 4,

wherein the phosphinic salt and/or diphosphinic salt, or their polymers, have been encapsulated with a surface layer composed of a synthetic resin or a wax.

2. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein R^1 and R^2 are identical or different and are C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, linear or branched, and/or phenyl.
3. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in claim ~~1 or 2~~, wherein R^1 and R^2 are identical or different and are methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, tert-butyl, n-pentyl and/or phenyl.
4. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 3~~claim 1, wherein R^3 is methylene, ethylene, n-propylene, isopropylene, n-butylene, tert-butylene, n-pentylene, n-octylene or n-dodecylene.
5. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 3~~claim 1, wherein R^3 is phenylene or naphthylene.
6. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 3~~claim 1, wherein R^3 is methylphenylene, ethylphenylene, tert-butylphenylene, methylnaphthylene, ethylnaphthylene, or tert-butylnaphthylene.
7. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 3~~claim 1, wherein R^3 is phenylmethylene, phenylethylene, phenylpropylene, or phenylbutylene.
8. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 7~~claim 1, wherein M is calcium, aluminum, or zinc.
9. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 8~~claim 1, wherein the synthetic resin comprises a curable resin.
10. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in claim 9, wherein the curable resin ~~comprises~~is an epoxy resin, a phenolic resin, or a melamine resin.

11. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in claim 9, wherein the ~~amounts added~~amount of the synthetic resin ~~are~~is from 0.1 to 20% by weight, based on the phosphinic salt.

12. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in claim 9, wherein the ~~amounts added~~amount of the synthetic resin ~~are~~is from 0.5 to 10% by weight, ~~preferably from 1 to 5% by weight,~~ based on the phosphinic salt.

13. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 8~~claim 1, wherein the ~~waxes comprise~~wax is selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbon waxes, ester waxes, oxidized polyolefin waxes, oxidized hydrocarbon waxes, amide waxes, wax acids, wax soaps and/or a combination of these components.

14. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 8~~claim 1, wherein the ~~waxes are~~wax is used in ~~the~~a form selected from the group consisting of powder, micropowder, dispersion in water, dispersion in solvent, ~~or~~and in the form of dispersions in water/solvent mixtures.

15. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 8~~claim 1, wherein the ~~amounts~~amount added of the ~~waxes are~~wax is from 0.5 to 10% by weight, ~~preferably from 1 to 5% by weight,~~ based on the phosphinic salt.

16. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 15~~claim 1, wherein ~~amounts of from 0.1 to 5% by weight, preferably from 0.1 to 1% by weight, based on the phosphinic salt, of a water-emulsifiable organic liquid acting as phlegmatizer are~~is added in an amount of from 0.1 to 5% by weight, based on the phosphinic salt.

17. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 16~~claim 16, wherein the water-emulsifiable organic liquid ~~comprises~~is selected from the group consisting of polyglycols, phthalates, ~~or and~~aromatic phosphoric esters.

18. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 17~~claim 1, ~~wherein further comprising at least one of the compound selected from the group consisting of~~ melamine phosphate, dimelamine phosphate, melamine pyrophosphate, melamine polyphosphates, melam polyphosphates, melem polyphosphates and/or melon polyphosphates ~~are also present~~.

19. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in ~~one or more claims 1 to 18~~claim 1, ~~wherein further comprising at least one~~ melamine condensation products, ~~such as~~a product selected from the group consisting of melam, melem, and/or melon, ~~are also present~~.

20. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 19~~claim 1, ~~wherein further comprising at least one compound selected from the group consisting of~~ oligomeric esters of tris(hydroxyethyl) isocyanurate with aromatic polycarboxylic acids, benzoguanamine, tris(hydroxyethyl) isocyanurate, allantoin, glycoluril, melamine, melamine cyanurate, dicyandiamide, and/or guanidine ~~are also present~~.

21. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 20~~claim 1, ~~wherein further comprising a~~ nitrogen-containing phosphates of the formulae $(\text{NH}_4)_y\text{H}_{3-y}\text{PO}_4$ and, ~~respectively, or~~ $(\text{NH}_4\text{PO}_3)_z$, ~~are present~~, where y is from 1 to 3 and z is from 1 to 10 000.

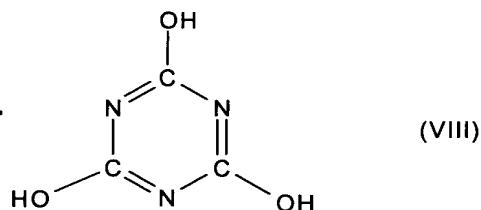
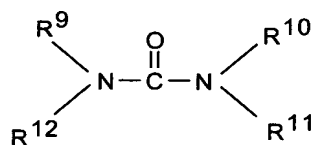
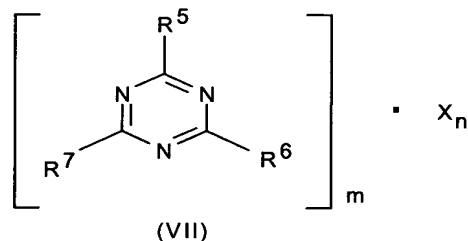
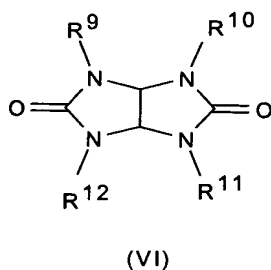
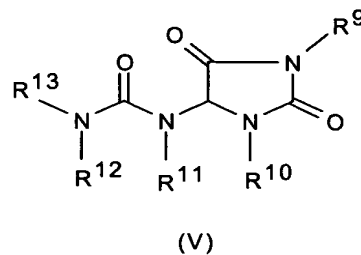
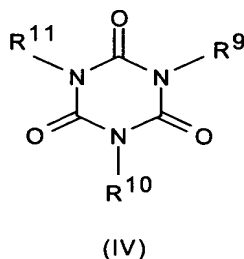
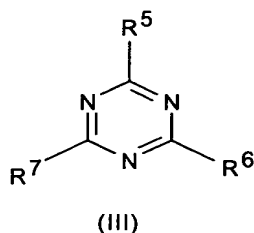
22. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 21~~claim 1, ~~wherein further comprising a~~ synthetic inorganic compound and/or a mineral product ~~or both is present~~.

23. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 22~~claim 22, wherein the synthetic inorganic compound ~~and/or~~ the mineral product ~~comprises~~is selected from the group consisting of an oxygen compound of silicon, magnesium compounds, metal carbonates of metals of the second main group of the periodic table, red phosphorus, ~~or~~comprises zinc compounds ~~or~~and aluminum compounds.

24. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 23~~claim 23, wherein the oxygen compounds of silicon ~~comprise~~are selected from the group consisting of salts and esters of orthosilicic acid and condensation products thereof, ~~or~~comprise silicates, zeolites, ~~and~~ silicas, ~~or~~comprise glass powder, glass/ceramic powder, ~~or~~ ceramic powder; wherein the magnesium compounds ~~comprise~~are selected from the group consisting of magnesium hydroxide, hydrotalcites, magnesium carbonates ~~or~~and magnesium calcium carbonates; wherein the zinc compounds ~~comprise~~are selected from the group consisting of zinc oxide, zinc stannate, zinc hydroxystannate, zinc phosphate, zinc borate, ~~or~~and zinc sulfides; and wherein the aluminum compounds ~~comprise~~are selected from the group consisting of aluminum hydroxide ~~or~~and aluminum phosphate.

25. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 24~~, wherein claim 1, further comprising at least one nitrogen compounds ~~compound~~are present as a further component.

26. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 25~~claim 25, wherein the nitrogen compounds ~~comprise these of~~are selected from the formulae (III) to (VIII) ~~or~~and mixtures thereof



where

R^5 to R^7 are hydrogen, C_1 - C_8 -alkyl, or C_5 - C_{16} -cycloalkyl or -alkylcycloalkyl, unsubstituted or substituted with a hydroxy function or with a C_1 - C_4 -hydroxyalkyl function, or are C_2 - C_8 -alkenyl, C_1 - C_8 -alkoxy, -acyl, or -acyloxy, or C_6 - C_{12} -aryl or -arylalkyl, or OR^8 , or $N(R^8)R^9$, or else N-alicyclic systems or N-aromatic systems, R^8 is hydrogen, C_1 - C_8 -alkyl, C_5 - C_{16} -cycloalkyl or -alkylcycloalkyl, unsubstituted or substituted with a hydroxy function or with a C_1 - C_4 -hydroxyalkyl function, or is C_2 - C_8 -alkenyl, C_1 - C_8 -alkoxy, -acyl, or -acyloxy, or C_6 - C_{12} -aryl or -arylalkyl, R^9 to R^{13} are the groups of R^8 , or else $O-R^8$, m and n , independently of one another, are 1, 2, 3, or 4,

X is ~~acids and acid~~ which can form adducts with triazine compounds (III).

27. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 26~~claim 1, wherein carbodiimides are also presentfurther comprising at least one carbodiimide.

28. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing compounds as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 27, which comprises~~claim 1 comprising the steps of adjusting the pH of an aqueous suspension of a phosphinate to between 4 and 9, then adding an aqueous emulsion of a wax or of a synthetic resin, or a solution of the wax or synthetic resin in a water-miscible solvent, stirring for from 0.5 to 3 hours at a temperature of from 40 to 80°C,wherein 0.1% to 20% wax or synthetic resin are applied to 80 to 99.9 parts by weight of phosphinate, and then, where appropriate, ~~adding an aqueous emulsion of an organic liquid, and stirring for from 0.5 to 3 hours at a temperature of from 20 to 90°C, in such a way that from 0.1-20% of wax and, respectively, synthetic resin and, where appropriate, from 0.1 to 5% of phlegmatizer are applied to 80-99.9 parts by weight of phosphinate.~~

29. (Currently Amended) A flame-retardant plastics molding composition comprising a compound as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 27~~claim 1.

30. (Currently Amended) The flame-retardant plastics molding composition as claimed in claim 29, further comprising at least one thermoplastic polymer, wherein the thermoplastic polymers comprisepolymer is selected from the group consisting of HI (high-impact) polystyrene, polyphenylene ethers, polyamides, polyesters, polycarbonates, ~~or and~~ blends or polyblends of the type represented by ABS (acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene), or PC/ABS (polycarbonate/acrylonitrile-butadiene).

31. (Currently Amended) The flame-retardant plastics molding composition as ~~claimed in claim 29 or~~ claimed in claim 30, wherein the at least thermoplastic

~~polymer comprises~~ is selected from the group consisting of polyamides, and/or polyester and mixtures thereof.

32. (Currently Amended) The flame-retardant plastics molding composition as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 29 to 31, wherein, independently of one another,~~ claim 29, further comprising a nitrogen compound and wherein the surface-modified phosphinic salt is used at a concentration of from 1 to 30% by weight, and the nitrogen compound is used at a concentration of from 0.1 to 10% by weight, based in each case on the plastics molding composition.

33. (Currently Amended) A thermoplastic ~~article polymer molding, a thermoplastic polymer film, a thermoplastic polymer filament, or a thermoplastic polymer fiber,~~ comprising a compound as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 27 claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic article is selected from the group consisting of a thermoplastic polymer film, a thermoplastic polymer filament or a thermoplastic polymer fiber.

34. (Currently Amended) ~~A polymer molding, a polymer film, a polymer filament, or a polymer fiber,~~ The thermoplastic article as claimed in claim 33, wherein the thermoplastic polymer ~~comprises~~ is selected from the group consisting of HI (high-impact) polystyrene, polyphenylene ethers, polyamides, polyesters, polycarbonates, or blends or polyblends of the type represented by ABS (acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene), or PC/ABS (polycarbonate/acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene), polyamide, polyester, and/or ABS.

35. (Currently Amended) The ~~thermoplastic article polymer molding, polymer film, polymer filament, or polymer fiber~~ as claimed in claim 33 or 34, ~~which comprises,~~ comprising:
from 1 to 30% by weight of a compound of ~~claims 1 to 27~~ claim 1
from 1 to 99% by weight of a thermoplastic polymer, or a mixture of these thermoplastic polymers,
from 0 to 5% by weight of additives, and

from 0 to 50% by weight of filler.

36. (Currently Amended) ~~The polymer molding, polymer film, polymer filament, or polymer fiber as claimed in one or more of claims 33 to 35, which comprises~~thermoplastic article as claimed in claim 33, comprising:
from 5 to 20% by weight of a compound of ~~claims 1 to 27~~claim 1
from 48 to 95% by weight of a thermoplastic polymer, or a mixture of ~~these thermoplastic polymers~~
from 0 to 2% by weight of additives, and
from 0 to 30% by weight of filler.

37. (New) The compound as claimed in claim 9, wherein the amount of the synthetic resin is from 1 to 5% by weight, based in the phosphinic salt.

38. (New) The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein the amount added of the wax is from 1 to 5%, by weight, based on the phosphinic salt.

39. (New) The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein a water-emulsifiable organic liquid acting as a phlegmatizer is added in an amount of from 0.1 to 1% by weight, based on the phosphinic salt.

40. (New) The process of claim 28, further comprising the steps of adding an aqueous emulsion of an organic liquid, stirring for from 0.5 to 3 hours at a temperature of from 20 to 90°C.

41. (New) The process of claim 28 further comprising the step of adding from 0.1 to 5% by weight of phlegmatizer.